

What is claimed is:

1. An inspecting method for a light source of an image reader reading an image recorded on an original, said light source including a plurality of light emitting elements and said image reader comprising a photoelectric converter for receiving a light emitted from said light source toward said original and for converting the received light into an electric signal, said inspecting method for the light source comprising the steps of:

10 receiving the light of each of said light emitting elements with said photoelectric converter, the light being received without passing through said original;

converting the received light into a photoelectric signal;

15 displaying a light-emission state of each of said light emitting elements on the basis of said photoelectric signal; and

inspecting said light source by watching said light-emission states of said light emitting elements.

20 2. An inspecting method for a light source according to claim 1, wherein said image reader is disposed at an optical axis between said light source and said photoelectric converter, and said image reader includes a detachable diffusion member for diffusing the light of the respective
25 light emitting elements when reading said image, said diffusion member being removed when displaying said light-emission state.

3. An inspecting method for a light source according to claim 2, wherein said image reader includes an image-forming lens, which is movable between a first position for forming said image on said photoelectric converter and a second position for forming an image of said light source on said photoelectric converter, said image-forming lens being set to said second position when displaying said light-emission state.

4. An inspecting method for a light source according to claim 3, wherein said light emitting element is an LED.

5. An inspecting method for a light source according to claim 4, wherein said photoelectric converter is an area CCD for receiving the light emitted from said LED.

6. An inspecting system for a light source of an image reader reading an image recorded on an original, said light source including a plurality of light emitting elements, said inspecting system for the light source comprising:

a photoelectric converter for receiving a light emitted from said light source and for converting the received light into a photoelectric signal, the light being received by said photoelectric converter without passing through said original;

an image forming means for forming an inspection image representing a light-emission state of each of said light emitting elements on the basis of said photoelectric signal; and

a display for showing said inspection image.

7. An inspecting system for a light source according to claim 6, wherein said image reader is disposed at an optical axis between said light source and said photoelectric converter, and said image reader includes a detachable diffusion member for diffusing the light of the respective light emitting elements when reading said image, said diffusion member being removed when showing said inspection image on said display.

8. An inspecting system for a light source according to claim 7, wherein said image reader includes an image-forming lens, which is movable between a first position for forming said image on said photoelectric converter and a second position for forming an image of said light source on said photoelectric converter, said image-forming lens being set to said second position when showing said inspection image on said display.

9. An inspecting system for a light source according to claim 8, wherein said inspection image represents the light-emission states of said light emitting elements in accordance with an arrangement thereof.

10. An inspecting system for a light source according to claim 6, wherein said light source includes the light emitting element for emitting infrared rays.

11. An inspecting system for a light source according to claim 10, wherein said light emitting element is an LED.

12. An inspecting system for a light source according to claim 11, wherein said photoelectric converter is an area

CCD for receiving the light emitted from said LED.

13. An inspecting method for a light source of an image reader reading an image recorded on an original, said light source including a plurality of light emitting elements and said image reader comprising a photoelectric converter for receiving a light emitted from said light source toward said original and for converting the received light into an electric signal, said inspecting method for the light source comprising the steps of:

receiving the light of each of said light emitting elements with said photoelectric converter, the light being received without passing through said original;

converting the received light into a photoelectric signal;

inspecting a light-emission state of each of said light emitting elements on the basis of said photoelectric signal; and

automatically judging whether said light source is a defect or not, on the basis of an inspection result of said light-emission state.

14. An inspecting method for a light source according to claim 13, wherein said image reader is disposed at an optical axis between said light source and said photoelectric converter, and said image reader includes a detachable diffusion member for diffusing the light of the respective light emitting elements when reading said image, said diffusion member being removed when inspecting said

light-emission state.

15. An inspecting method for a light source according to claim 14, wherein said image reader includes an image-forming lens, which is movable between a first position for forming said image on said photoelectric converter and a second position for forming an image of said light source on said photoelectric converter, said image-forming lens being set to said second position when inspecting said light-emission state.

16. An inspecting method for a light source according to claim 15, wherein said light emitting element is an LED.

17. An inspecting method for a light source according to claim 16, wherein said photoelectric converter is an area CCD for receiving the light emitted from said LED.

18. An inspecting system for a light source of an image reader reading an image recorded on an original, said light source including a plurality of light emitting elements, said inspecting system for the light source comprising:

a photoelectric converter for receiving a light emitted from said light source and for converting the received light into a photoelectric signal, the light being received by said photoelectric converter without passing through said original; and

judgement means for inspecting a light-emission state of each of said light emitting elements on the basis of said photoelectric signal, said judgement means automatically judging whether said light source is a defect or not.

19. An inspecting system for a light source according to claim 18, wherein said image reader is disposed at an optical axis between said light source and said photoelectric converter, and said image reader includes a detachable diffusion member for diffusing the light of the respective light emitting elements when reading said image, said diffusion member being removed when inspecting said light-emission state.

20. An inspecting system for a light source according to claim 19, wherein said image reader includes an image-forming lens, which is movable between a first position for forming said image on said photoelectric converter and a second position for forming an image of said light source on said photoelectric converter, said image-forming lens being set to said second position when inspecting said light-emission state.

21. An inspecting system for a light source according to claim 18, wherein said light source includes the light emitting element for emitting infrared rays.

22. An inspecting system for a light source according to claim 21, wherein said light emitting element is an LED.

23. An inspecting system for a light source according to claim 22, wherein said photoelectric converter is an area CCD for receiving the light emitted from said LED.